

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 11, 2011

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, October 11, 2011 with Commissioners, Tom Barnes, Marvin Cole, Ken Masters, Deborah Adams, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Commissioner Tom Barnes called the meeting to order, Ken Masters made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting as presented. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT

Judge David Northam appeared before the commissioners to present a 12 volume set of opinions by United States Federal Judge William Morris Sparks. Judge Sparks was grandfather to Jim and Bob Foster of Rush County. The children (Jim, Ann, and Bill) of Jim and Ruthann Foster made the gift to the courts.

Judge Northam informed those in attendance that Judge Sparks began as a Deputy prosecuting attorney of Rush County in the late 1800's and then entered into private practice in Rushville. He was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives from 1901 to 1903. He was also a judge on the 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Indiana.

President Herbert Hoover nominated Sparks to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in 1929. He was confirmed by the United States Senate, and received his commission on the same day. He served as chief judge in 1948, only later to assume senior status that same year. He served in that capacity until his death in 1950 in Rushville.

Judge Northam stated that Judge Sparks presided over the D.C. Stephenson trial. Stephenson, was charged with second-degree murder. His occupation was Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

PROSECUTOR

Phil Caviness, Prosecutor, discussed switching the former Public Defenders office with the current Mental Health Office. Caviness explained that he has need of a more private room and that he had discussed the possible switch with the Mental Health Dept. The Mental Health Dept. currently only uses the office approximately two (2) days each month.

Ken Masters made the motion to flip the offices as described. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Mary Ann Beard, Treasurer and Health Insurance Committee Member appeared before the commissioners to express her support of allowing Weight Watchers meetings to be held at the courthouse following office hours. Beard also shared her support of allowing the payroll deduction process for employees.

Deborah Adams provided results of the Weight Watchers survey to the commissioners. Adams reported that eighteen (18) expressed interest of wanting to participate immediately following work. Thirteen (13) desired a payroll deduction as a form of payment and five (5) knew of someone in the public who would also like to participate in the Weight Watchers program.

Beard and Adams both stressed the wellness benefits to employees. Marvin Cole made the motion to proceed with the Weight Watchers program. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EMA

Chuck Kemker, EMA Director, reported that money has been returned to his office from Nextel that should have gone directly to the fire departments. Kemker indicated that he is currently working with EMR Consulting to resolve the situation.

The “All Page” phone feature has now been established for the courthouse phones. This will be posted on each phone and utilized for courthouse evacuations.

Kemker reported that he is working towards another CERT training by the end of the year.

Kemker provided Emergency Preparedness Resource Guides for those that have need. Kemker noted that it was the same one that was in the Sunday Star a few weeks ago. The guide is also available online.

MASTER GARDENERS

Daylanne Sheehan of the Rush County Master Gardeners appeared before the commissioners to seek their support and signatures on the Rush County Community Foundation Grant Application - 2011 Cycle III. Sheehan explained that the Master Gardeners are not a 501C organization and would need the Rush County Commissioners to apply on their behalf.

The local \$10,000.00 grant is for a beautification project for the Rush County Courthouse landscape through the Rush County Master Gardeners and Friends. Sheehan shared the landscape design noting that it will take more than one year to complete.

Ken Masters made the motion to sign the RCCF Grant Application – 2011 Cycle III. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheehan gave special thanks to both the Sheriff department and the Highway department for the past assistance.

SHERIFF

Brett Turner, Jail Commander, who stepped in for sheriff Jeff Sherwood who was out of the office, reported forty-six (46) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, submitted the September monthly highway report review.

Sitton reported they are currently in the Right of Way stage of Phase III of the Carthage Pike Project. Sitton reported that one ROW has seven (7) members and he would need assistance from the county attorney.

Sitton reported on the placing of temporary trees in the wetlands of Phase II.

EMS

Verlin Custer came before the commissioners asking for an update on the writing of the EMS protocols. Custer referred to the meeting held with Carthage Vol. Fire Dept that was attended by both commissioners and some councilmen.

Tom Barnes discussed the meeting held with Carthage. Barnes informed Custer that the commissioners felt that they are not qualified to write the protocols and they have turned this over to the Medical Directors. Dr. Richard Boersma (Medical Director for both Raleigh Fire Dept and Carthage Fire Dept) and Dr. Russell Daugherty (Medical Director for Rush Memorial Ambulance and Anderson Twp Fire) will write and approve the protocols.

Custer shared his concerns that the state has indicated that they do not have to have a common set of protocols. Barnes informed Custer that the commissioners will work with Raleigh and Carthage. Barnes state that he would be upfront with Custer as the RMH protocols are 65 pages and the Raleigh protocols are only 45 pages. Barnes shared concerns that he felt some things were left out.

Barnes stressed that their Medical Director Dr. Richard Boersma has to approve the protocols that he is in the process of re-writing with Medical Director Dr. Russell Daugherty. The commissioners also corrected the statements and gossip that they would **not** pull funding to departments.

In other areas, the commissioners reviewed September EMS run reports received from:

- Rush Memorial Ambulance Service
- Carthage Fire Department

- Raleigh Fire Department

AUDITOR

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval of payment of payroll claims for the payroll ending October 14, 2011 on a motion by Marvin Cole. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ken Masters made the motion to approve Bi-Weekly Claims submitted by October 4, 2011. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams asked the commissioners to approve the submitted 2012 calendar. Ken Masters made the motion to approve the presented 2012 calendar. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams reviewed the submitted commissioner appointments to be advertised in the Rushville Republican and on the County website. The commissioners will take applications for the following annual appointments:

- Alcoholic Beverage Board
- County Attorney
- E-911 Board
- Highway Superintendent
- Homeland Security Coordinator
- Hospital Board
- Veterans Service Officer
- Courthouse Custodial Services
- Library Board
- Health Board as recommended by the County Health Officer
- County Health Officer as recommended by the Health Board

Adams reported that the County tax sale is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011. The Commissioners reviewed the September Treasurers report.

Adams reported that she will be attending the State Board of Accounts called all conference during the week of October 24, 2011.

16TH STREET EXTENSION

Tom Barnes reported on the CXS railroad crossing at the 16th street extension. Barnes stated that the commissioners met with the city. Barnes stated that he requested a public hearing.

COURTHOUSE

Tom Barnes reported on additional sewage problems located within the courthouse.

MISC.

- Flue shots are available to the public on October 13, 2011
- John Saxon asked about various departments' minutes not being posted on the county website in a timely manner. Saxon noted that the Area Plan and Surveyor are many months behind.
- Discussion was held on the new FEMA map CD's that have arrived. Tom Barnes stated that he found them confusing. Marvin Rees will contact Sidwell for a quote to convert them over to the new format.

Motion to adjourn was received from Ken Masters. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Barnes, Chairman

Marvin Cole

Ken Masters

ATTEST:

Deborah C. Adams, Auditor